



# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The November unemployment rate for the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area increased two-tenths of a percentage point from October to 2.6 percent as shown in East Central Idaho Table 1. The labor force decreased by 80 while 130 more people were unemployed. Construction decreases added to the unemployment numbers along with a decline in business support services such as temporary employment agencies, some of which are related to the construction industry. Local government jobs for parks and other land maintenance also decreased. Retail trade was the only industry to show a significant increase over the month in preparation for the holiday season. The unemployment rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from the same time last year. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the area, had a 2.9 percent unemployment rate in November, the lowest rate of all larger Idaho cities except for Meridian. The Idaho Falls rate was up three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month but down one-tenth from the previous year.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: City Growth in East Central Idaho

From 2004 to 2005, Idaho's population grew by almost 34,000. From 2005 to 2006, it grew an additional 37,000, placing it third in percentage growth in the nation. While county population for 2006 is not available yet, the 2005 figures show population in the nine counties of east central Idaho grew by almost 4,000 from 2004.

Rexburg and Ammon alone accounted for almost 3,000 of that. Other cities that grew by over 100 people for the year included Idaho Falls, Rigby and Victor. A look at percentage growth shows that Victor and Ammon added the most at 12.9 percent and 12 percent, respectively. Rigby came in next at 7.5 percent, and Rexburg followed at 6.2 percent.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Nov 2006*	Oct 2006	Nov 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,550	61,630	60,160	-0.1	2.3
Unemployment	1,630	1,500	1,650	8.7	-1.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6%	2.4%	2.7%		
Total Employment	59,930	60,130	58,500	-0.3	2.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,700	61,870	60,320	-0.3	2.3
Unemployment	1,460	1,220	1,470	19.7	-0.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.4%	2.0%	2.4%		
Total Employment	60,240	60,640	58,860	-0.7	2.3
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	54,820	54,810	53,610	0.0	2.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	7,760	7,850	7,510	-1.1	3.3
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	50	0.0	-80.0
Construction	4,410	4,500	4,090	-2.0	7.8
Manufacturing	3,340	3,340	3,370	0.0	-0.9
Food Manufacturing	1,000	980	1,030	2.0	-2.9
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	250	260	260	-3.8	-3.8
Machinery Manufacturing	160	160	150	-0.2	6.7
Other Manufacturing	1,930	1,940	1,930	-0.5	0.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	47,060	46,960	46,100	0.2	2.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,880	13,630	13,410	1.8	3.5
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,290	4,140	0.2	3.9
Retail Trade	7,850	7,600	7,640	3.3	2.7
Utilities	60	60	50	0.0	20.0
Transportation	1,670	1,680	1,580	-0.6	5.7
Information	1,210	1,210	1,180	0.0	2.5
Financial Activities	2,120	2,130	2,120	-0.5	0.0
Professional & Business Services	9,270	9,390	9,380	-1.3	-1.2
Educational & Health Services	7,170	7,140	6,800	0.4	5.4
Leisure & Hospitality	4,310	4,350	4,360	-0.9	-1.1
Other Services	2,010	1,990	2,050	1.0	-2.0
Government Education	3,530	3,470	3,480	1.7	1.4
Government Administration	3,560	3,650	3,320	-2.5	7.2

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Overall population growth in east central Idaho from Census 2000 through mid-2005 was almost 17,000, 12.5 percent of the state's total growth over that period. Ammon grew the fastest at 76.6 percent followed by Victor at 62.5 percent, Rexburg at 52.2 percent, Sugar City at 19.1 percent and Rigby at 8.2 percent. Of those, the actual increases totaled 14,518. Rexburg had over 9,000 of that increase. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the region, increased by just over 1,600, or 3.2 percent. Total growth in the greater Idaho Falls area — Ammon, Idaho Falls,

Ucon and Iona — was 6,473. The balance of Bonneville County, or areas not part of incorporated city limits, increased by almost 3,000 over the same period.

By population percentage growth from 2004 to 2005 across Idaho, Victor and Ammon came in third and fourth. Meridian was the fastest growing city followed closely by Star, a small city between Boise and Caldwell. From the 2000 Census through mid-2005, Ammon had the second highest percentage growth, Victor claimed third and Rexburg came in sixth. Kuna, just southeast of Nampa, led the state in growth, nearly doubling its population from 2000 to 2005.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Bonneville County was named as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance in January. It was chosen from over 1,000 selected communities that applied for the title. The award recognizes that the county has caring adults, safe places and provides a healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others. The title will grant access to a database of grants, which the community can apply for. Boise, Nampa, Meridian and Clearwater County were other Idaho locations sharing the honor.
- Habitat for Humanity is opening a ReStore in Idaho Falls. The nonprofit organization remodels and builds houses for families in need, and vendors often donate building supplies. Habitat has been selling leftover materials through auctions to help raise funds. But now the organization has opened nearly 500 retail outlets, ReStores, throughout the United States where the leftover building materials are sold. The ReStores also accept donated building materials from other sources.

### Fremont County

- Ashton is preparing for American Dog Derby, the town's 90<sup>th</sup> annual dog race. The first race was March 4, 1917. Although there have been a few years that the race has not been run, the derby has been steady from 1993. At one time in its history, there were up to 10,000 spectators in the Ashton area for the event. This year's race begins at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 16 in downtown Ashton. Events include a 12-dog race, an 8-dog race, a potluck race, junior race and a celebrity race. On Feb. 17, there will be a mutt race for all dogs and people, a 5-kilometer race, kid's race, a 1-mile snowshoe race and weight pull contests while the second stages of the four main races continue. Along with the races, there will be a clearance sale on leftovers from previous derbies and craft booths. An awards banquet takes place at the Ashton Community Center. More information and history can be found at <http://www.americandogderby.org>.

### Lemhi County

- The Community Youth Center, or The Fortress, in Salmon is remodeling to increase its programs. Originally designed for children from fifth to eighth grades, the center will now expand to include high school students. More classes and more structured activities along with free time will now be offered for a broader age range and for longer hours. Kim Campbell is the center's new program director, and a program committee is being formed to help in the new expansion.

Tanya Albán, Regional Economist  
1515 E. Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
(208) 557-2500, ext. 3587  
E-mail: [tanya.alban@cl.idaho.gov](mailto:tanya.alban@cl.idaho.gov)

## WEB SITE PACKED WITH LABOR MARKET RESOURCES

Idaho's Labor Market Information Web site — <http://lmi.idaho.gov> — is a key source for economic information about Idaho and how it compares to the U.S. on a variety of topics. The Web site has proven essential to businesses, students, job seekers, economic analysts and others. Find out for yourself.

